

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0050725-09-0

Permittee: Saputo Cheese USA Inc, 1052 6th ST, Almaena, WI, 54805

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Saputo Cheese USA Inc Almaena, 1052 6th St Almaena WI

Receiving Water And Location: The groundwater of the Hay River Basin in Barron County and a ditch tributary leading to the Hay River.

Brief Facility Description and Summary of Proposed Changes: Saputo Cheese USA, Inc. operates cheese making and whey processing facilities in Almaena, Wisconsin. The primary intake raw material is whole milk. Natural cheeses, cream and whey/whey by-products are produced. The wastewater generated from milk receiving, cheese making, whey processing and product containment/shipping operations processing of the raw milk includes:

Process wastewater generated from equipment, tank and floor cleanup operations from the facility which is treated in a two-stage aerated lagoon system consisting of an equalization pond and an aeration lagoon. The treated wastewater is stored until it is spray irrigated (Outfall 001) during warm weather months over sprayfields. Wastewater sludge is also landspread on approved sites (Outfall 004). A portion of the high strength waste includes lactose permeate is landspread on approved agriculture fields (Outfall 003). Whey plant evaporator condensate of whey (COW water), generated at the facility is reused for steam generation and clean up water. Outfall 002 historically discharged this water to a ditch leading to the Hay River. The outfall is only authorized for emergencies, currently the COW water is discharged to the treatment system after reuse.

Land application of waste shall be done in accordance with permit conditions and applicable codes. All land application sites shall be approved prior to their use. To receive a list of approved sites, or to be notified of potential approvals, contact the below named basin engineer.

It is the Department's intention to renew the permit for another term. The proposed new permit expiration date will be June 30, 2026. Appropriate discharge limitations, monitoring requirements, and reporting conditions will be included in the permit. Changes from the previous permit include: [1] the parameter maximum nitrogen applied on any zone and a limit 400 lbs/ac/yr has been added to the land treatment section of the permit to ensure overloading of a field does not occur. [2] preventative action limits (PALs) for the groundwater monitoring wells were evaluated, chloride, pH and total dissolved solids limits were adjusted. [3] To reduce potential impacts of chloride to groundwater it was determined a limit of 300 mg/l is needed during the spray season per NR 214.14(3)(b) Wis. Adm. Code. A schedule has been added to reduce chloride sources over the permit term.

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Sheri A. Snowbank, DNR, 810 W Maple St, Spooner, WI, 54801, Sheri.Snowbank@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Jordan Englebert, DNR, 810 W Maple Street, Spooner, WI 54801, jordan.Englebert@wisconsin.gov

Persons wishing to comment on or object to the proposed permit action, or to request a public hearing, may write to the Department of Natural Resources at the above-named permit drafter's address. Currently, DNR staff are working remotely and have very limited access to US mail. To ensure comments are received, the Department recommends that all comments be sent via email to the permit drafter listed in this notice. All comments or suggestions received no later than 30 days after the publication date of this public notice will be considered along with other information on file in making a final decision regarding the permit. Anyone providing comments in response to this public notice will receive a notification of the Department's final decision when the permit is issued. Where designated as a reviewable surface water discharge permit, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is allowed up to 90 days to submit comments or objections regarding this permit determination. If no comments are received on the proposed permit from anyone, including U.S. EPA, the permit will be issued as proposed.

The Department may schedule a public informational hearing if requested by any person and shall schedule a public informational hearing if a petition requesting a hearing is received from 5 or more persons or if response to this notice indicates significant public interest pursuant to s. 283.49, Stats. Requests for a public informational hearing shall state the following: the name and address of the person(s) requesting the hearing; the interest in the proposed permit of the person(s) requesting the hearing; the reasons for the request; and the issues proposed to be considered at the hearing.

Information on file for this permit action, including the draft permit, fact sheet and permit application, is accessible via e-mail by contacting the above named permit drafter's e-mail address or the above named basin engineer's e-mail during normal business hours Monday through Friday (except holidays). Note that DNR staff have limited access to permit hard copy files during this time as they are working from home, but much of the permit file is available electronically by e-mail request. Permit information is also available on the internet at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wastewater/PublicNotices.html>. Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable

accommodation, including the provision of informational material in an alternative format, will be made to qualified individuals upon request.

NAME OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: Barron News-Shield

ADDRESS OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: PO Box 100, Barron, WI 54812-0100

Date Notice Issued: April 21, 2021

STREAMLINED PUBLIC NOTICE VERSION FOR NEWSPAPER

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PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0050725-09-0

FOR THE COMPLETE PUBLIC NOTICE AND DETAILS GO TO THE WEB LINK:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wastewater/PublicNotices.html>

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Receiving Water And Location: The groundwater of the Hay River Basin in Barron County and a ditch tributary leading to the Hay River.

Brief Facility Description: Saputo Cheese USA, Inc. operates a cheese making and whey processing facility in Almaena, Wisconsin. The wastewater generated includes process wastewater from cleanup operations that is treated and spray irrigated (Outfall 001) during warm weather months. Wastewater sludge and a portion of high strength waste is landspread on approved sites (Outfalls 004 & 003). Whey plant evaporator condensate of whey (COW water) discharged to Outfall 001, but in the case of emergencies maybe discharged to a ditch leading to the Hay River (Outfall 002).

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Sheri A. Snowbank, DNR, 810 W Maple St, Spooner, WI, 54801, Sheri.Snowbank@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Jordan Englebert, DNR, 810 W Maple Street, Spooner, WI, 54801, jordan.Englebert@wisconsin.gov

The Department has tentatively decided that the above specified WPDES permit should be reissued.

Persons wishing to comment on or object to the proposed permit action, or to request a public hearing, may write to the Department of Natural Resources at the permit drafter's address. Currently, DNR staff are working remotely and have very limited access to US mail. To ensure comments are received, the Department recommends that all comments be sent via email to the permit drafter listed in this notice. All comments or suggestions received no later than 30 days after the publication date of this public notice will be considered along with other information on file in making a final decision regarding the permit. Anyone providing comments in response to this public notice will receive a notification of the Department's final decision when the permit is issued.

The Department may schedule a public informational hearing if requested by any person and shall schedule an informational hearing if a petition requesting a hearing is received from 5 or more persons or if response to this notice indicates significant public interest pursuant to s. 283.49, Stats. Information on requesting a hearing is at the above web link.

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